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SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

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DEPARTMENT OF GENETICS
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE

December 20, 1958

Dear Tetsuo:

Your letter of the 14th just arrived, and caught me just as I returned from Stockholm. The ceremonies were, of course, very impressive; on the other hand, it is good to be back in our usual pattern of life. But we have to think of packing up to move to California in just about 3 1/2 weeks. I will be spending whatever time I possibly can on your mss.

I am glad to hear you have taken up my suggestion of asking the NIH for research funds, and the budget you presented is very reasonable. I will be disappointed if such a proposal is disapproved, but of course only time will tell. I would urge you to be very careful about the spelling and so on, and to make sure by preparing a full copy in advance before copying it to the application form. Also, read the directions very carefully on how to prepare the form. It is of course amazing (and unfortunate) that the salaries are so low by comparison with the other items.

You should make out a plan for say two or three years; the budget for the first year should include all the capital items (instruments, rabbit room) and for the second and third years the recurrent expenses, with perhaps a few \$100 for additional equipment that can be anticipated. I would certainly stress the collaborative help you will get from Dr. Matsusima.

I am enclosing a copy of my own application (please keep it confidential) which may be of some help to you. It was made rather hastily to transfer our funds from Wisconsin to Stanford, and some of it is out of date as it was taken from our original application of two years ago. But it may give some idea of the necessary detail. Keep in mind that my own applications are based more on past record, and you should perhaps give some more detail on your future intentions, that is the details of your immediate program. I also recommend that you concentrate on one or two specific projects rather than propose too broad a program that would take many years and many people. In brief, you should describe exactly what you can hope to actually work on during the next two or three years. Many applications are criticized for being too diffuse, and unrealistic in terms of what the investigator can actually do. You will see that your own project is not much smaller than my own, taking account of salary scales. These have to be adjusted to the policy of the institution.

W-3098 is Gal⁻ (from Gal₈ --x W3110); W3110 is K-12 Lp^S F⁻ (selected by motility, and used for a time as a standard Gal⁻).

SJ- is fine. It is after all an arbitrary symbol. We may continue to use W- and SW- at Stanford; not certain. I am pleased to hear about your book, which is a splendid idea. Will you do the Bacteria, and Tsujita the phages?

It is interesting to see the correspondence of modifiers of H₁ and H₂. Esther will write you herself sometime about coli x Salmonella. We have had to interrupt our work, but it is at least hopeful that an Hfr Salmonella recombinant can be found among the f1 or f2 generations. She is also trying to cross the P-22 receptor into a coli background for obvious good reasons, But so far ~~not definite~~ the results are not definite enough. Bruce told me the interesting story that fluorophenylalanine induces curliness without itself being incorporated into the flagellar protein. Is this indubitable?

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg